

ATTACHMENT B

Marked Up Replacement Claims

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim together with all other pending claims.

1. (amended) A solid support ~~(1,22)~~ for a biochemical assay, which support is substantially linear or planar in shape and has an anodised metal surface layer ~~(13)~~, the largest dimension of the support being less than 100 μ m, whereby an aqueous suspension is formable from a plurality of the supports.

2. (amended) A support according to claim 1, wherein the surface layer has cellular structure anodisation layer ~~(15, 23)~~, the growth direction of the cells of the anodisation layer being perpendicular to the plane of the surface layer.

3. (amended) A support according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein probe molecules ~~(16)~~ for the biochemical assay are bound to the surface layer.

4. (amended) A support according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the surface layer is of aluminum.

5. (amended) A support according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the surface layer is porous.

6. A support according to claim 5, wherein the pore size of the surface layer is approximately matched to the biochemically active molecules to be bound.

7. (amended) A support according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, incorporating a spatially varying pattern ~~(18)~~ for identification purposes.

8. A support according to claim 7, wherein said pattern is a barcode.

9. A support according to claim 8, wherein the barcode is a linear barcode.

10.(amended) A support according to ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~claim 1, in which the pattern comprises a series of holes ~~(2)~~ in the support.

A3 11.(amended) A method of fabricating the supports of ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, comprising sputter coating a flat surface with metal layer ~~(13)~~, anodising the metal layer, and lithographically patterning and etching the metal layer to reveal the supports.

12. (amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said surface consists of layer of soluble material ~~(12)~~ on a rigid substrate ~~(14)~~, and the method further comprises releasing the supports from said surface by solvation of the soluble material.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the soluble material is a resist.

A4 14. (amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 11 to 13~~claim 11, wherein the anodising is carried out at a voltage of up to 150 V.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the anodising is carried out at a voltage in the range from 4 V to 30V.

A5 16. (amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 11 to 15~~claim 11, further comprising binding probe molecules ~~(16)~~ to the anodised metal layer.

17. A optical reader for reading the patterns and identifying the supports according to claim 7.

18. A reader according to claim 17, operating by means of transmission optics.

20. (amended) A reader to claim 18, in which there are two substantially orthogonal light transmission paths ~~(33, 34)~~.

[illegible]